

Message Text

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46

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SUBJ: COMMENTS ON US-COLOMBIAN RELATIONS BY RECENTLY NAMED COLOMBIAN
AMBASSADOR TO US

1. JULIO CESAR TURBAY AYALA, DESIGNADO (VICE PRESIDENT), PRESIDENT
OF THE COLOMBIAN SENATE, LEADING VOICE IN THE LIBERAL PARTY, AND
RECENTLY NAMED COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE US WAS HONORED WITH A
HUGE BANQUET ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 17 ON THE OCCASION OF HIS IMMIN
ENT
DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON. DURING THE BANQUET, TURBAY GAVE A LENGTHY
SPEECH IN WHICH HE TOUCHED UPON NATIONAL PROBLEMS, INTERNATIONAL
ISSUES, AND COLOMBIAN RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. BECAUSE OF
HIS FORTHCOMING ASSIGNMENT AS AMBASSADOR TO THE US AND BECAUSE OF HIS

PREEMINENCE AS A COLOMBIAN POLITICAL LEADER, HIS REMARKS REGARDING
THE US ARE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST. PERTINENT PORTIONS OF THE SPEECH
FOLLOW:

2. TURBAY ACKNOWLEDGED THE HONOR OF BEING NAMED AMBASSADOR "AT A
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TIME OF SINGULAR IMPORTANCE FOR LATIN AMERICA, WHEN MANY OF THE

LEADERS OF THIS HEMISPHERE HAVE ESTABLISHED THE NECESSITY OF CARRING OUT A MODIFICATION OF THE POLICY OF THE US TOWARD THE REST OF THE NATIONS OF THE CONTINENT. APART FROM THE GENERAL INTEREST OF LATIN AMERICA (IN THE MODIFICATION) COLOMBIA HAS ITS OWN SPECIFIC INTEREST. THE US CONTINUES TO BE ITS PRIMARY COMMERCIAL PARTNER. WE CANNOT FORGET THAT ABOUT 40 PERCENT OF OUR IMPORTS COME FROM THE US AND 35 PERCENT OF OUR EXPORTS ARE DESTINED FOR THE US. AS YOU CAN SEE, TODAY OUR BALANCE OF TRADE WITH THAT NATION IS UNFAVORABLE, AND ALL OF US MUST APPLY OURSELVES TO CREATING THE CONDITIONS THAT WILL PERMIT US TO AT LEAST EQUALIZE THE BALANCE OF TRADE".

3. "GEOGRAPHICALLY, CULTURALLY, AND ECONOMICAL WE MORE IN THE ZONE OF CLOSEST PROXIMITY TO THE US.THE TECHNOLOGY, HER SCIENTIFIC ADVANCEMENTS, HER CULTURE, THE ALTERATIONS IN HIS ECONOMY, AND HER POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS, ORIGINATING IN THE CONSTITUTION OF PHILADELPHIA, CAUSE REPERCUSSIONS IN OUR ENVIRO-NMENT AND PROJECT THEIR EFFECTS, TO A GREAT DEGREE, IN THE VARIOUS FIELDS OF ACTIVITY IN OUR OWN CONTRY. MOREOVER, WE ALONG WITH THE US FORM PART OF TWO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: THE U.N. AND THE OAS."

4. IN REFERENCE TO PRESIDENT LOPEZ' FORTHCOMING TRIP TO THE US, TURBAY SAID THAT THE VISIT WITH PRESIDENT FORD "WILL GO BEYOND THE LIMITS OF ROUTING." ACCORDING TO TURBAY, BECAUSE OF PRESENT WORLD CONDITIONS AND BECAUSE OF THE EMINENT POSITIONS OF THE TWO PRESENTS, PRESIDENTS, PRESIDENTS FORD AND LOPEZ WILL BE IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE DIRECTIONS AND CREATE MECHANISMS WHICH WILL BE OF BENEFIN TO ALL LATIN AMERICA, AND PARTICULARLY TO COLOMBIA.

5. ON US-LA RELATIONS, TURBAY SAID,"I DO NOT HESITTATE TO SAY THAT . . . COOPERATION ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE US WOULD BE A DECISIVE FACTOR IN REMOVING THE THREAT SOCIAL

TENSIONS THAT WE PERCEIVE HANGING OVER THE VAST GEOGRAPHY OF THE CONTINENT: TENSIONS THAT THREATEN THE ESSENCE OF REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY. CERTAINLY WE DO NOT IGNORE THE FACT THAT THE US FINDS ITSELF IN THE CONTEXT OF A WORLD CRISIS AND IS SUFFERING FROM THE MONETARY CRISIS CREATED BY THE GROWING TRANSFER UNCLASSIFIED

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OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE FROM OIL IMPORTING COUNTRIES TO THE SMALL GROUP OF OIL EXPORTING COUNTRIES. NEVERTHELESS, WE ARE AWARE THAT THE US HAS INSTRUMENTS AVAILABLE THAT PERMIT IT, IF IT SO DESIRES, TO PARTICIPATE MORE EFFECTIVELY IN THE STRENGTHENING OF THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIES AND IS THE DEFENSE OF A POLITICAL SYSTEM IN WHICH, AS WELL AS IN ITS OWN, LIBERTY IS THE IRREPLACEABLE FOUNDATION."

6. FULL TEXT OF SPEECH BEING POUCHED TO ARA/NC.

VAKY

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